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To: Chair Kobayashi, Vice-Chair Chang, and members of the Committee

Re: Bill 11: Relating to the operating budget and program for the fiscal year July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

05/07/13

Hawaii Energy Connection, LLC (HEC) is an Oahu based photovoltaic (PV) installation company with over 90 full time employees. HEC has already pulled over 450 building permits for PV in the first quarter of 2013. The need for more electrical inspectors is critical.

HEC **supports** the provisions in Bill 11 which provides funding for an additional six (6) full time electrical inspectors for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013.

We currently have well over 600 open permits waiting for inspection. These permits represent tax payers that have been waiting to utilize the full benefits of their PV systems. Many of these tax payers have been waiting since the last quarter of 2012. Utilizing the new permit fee structure to add inspectors is essential to supporting these tax payers and our growing industry. HEC is therefore very supportive of the proposal to provide more funding for electrical inspectors and thus ensure that inspections can be completed in a timely manner.

HEC is on track of pulling well over 2,000 PV permits in 2013. At an average permit fee of \$300 per project, we alone will be adding over \$600,000 in new revenue to the C&C. Ourselves along with the rest of the entire solar industry continue to grow at an astonishing rate. In our humble opinion, an additional six (6) inspectors is the minimum required to service the growing number of tax payers moving to renewable energy.

Mahalo,
Chris DeBone
Managing partner
Hawaii Energy Connection, LLC

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